

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 OMB-01 TRSE-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00
PM-05 H-01 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01
PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 AID-05 OPIC-03 EB-08
/076 W

-----129980 201657Z /46

R 191655Z OCT 77
FM AMEMBASSY LISBON
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3443
INFO AMCONSUL PONTA DELGADA
AMCONSUL OPORTO POUCH

C O N F I D E N T I A L LISBON 8123

E.O. 11652: XGDS-3
TAGS: PINT PO
SUBJECT: PSD UNITED ON A TOUGH LINE

REF: (A) LISBON 8073 (DTG 181748Z OCT 77), (B) LISBON 8013
(DTG 171527Z OCT 77)

SUMMARY: PSD POLITICAL COMMITTEE MEMBER ANTONIO FONTES,
A PARTY MODERATE, SAID THE PSD WAS NOW UNITED ON A TOUGH
NEGOTIATING LINE WITH THE GOVERNMENT. HE SAID THE PSD
WILL INSIST ON PARTICIPATING IN A NEW GOVERNMENT. END SUMMARY.

1. AN INSIDER'S VIEW: PSD POLITICAL COMMITTEE MEMBER
ANTONIO FONTES, WHO PARTICIPATED IN THE PARTY'S OCT 15-16
NATIONAL COUNCIL MEETING TOLD EMBOFFS OCT 18:
-- PARTY IS UNITED: THE PSD, TROUBLED BY LEADERSHIP SPLITS
IN THE PAST, APPROVED ITS BRAGANCA PLATFORM (REFS A AND B)
BY UNANIMOUS VOTE. ALL PRESENT ENDORSED A TOUGH LINE
TOWARD THE SOCIALISTS.
-- PSD WANTS IN: THE PSD WILL INSIST ON PARTICIPATING
IN A NEW GOVERNMENT. THE SOCIAL DEMOCRATS FAVOR CDS
PARTICIPATION IF THE CENTRISTS WANT IN.

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-- ECONOMIC BARGAINING: THE PSD ADVOCATED A POLICY OF
ECONOMIC EXPANSION AT BRAGANCA IN ORDER TO PRESENT A
PORTUGUESE ALTERNATIVE TO IMF PROPOSALS (REF A). THE
SOCIAL DEMOCRATS RECOGNIZED, HOWEVER, THAT SOME
ADDITIONAL ECONOMIC RESTRAINTS WERE NECESSARY.
-- STILL NO NEGOTIATIONS: MARIO SOARES HAS DEMONSTRATED
SOME FLEXIBILITY IN HIS CONVERSATIONS WITH SA CARNEIRO,

BUT HAS YET TO OPEN HARD NEGOTIATIONS.

2. COMMENT: FONTES, A PARTY MODERATE, HAS SPOKEN OPENLY OF DISAGREEMENTS WITHIN THE PSD IN THE PAST. NOT SO THIS TIME. FONTES WAS PESSIMISTIC ABOUT PROSPECTS FOR RESOLVING THE CURRENT POLITICAL IMPASSE. BUT HE ARGUED THAT ONLY A SUBSTANTIAL CHANGE IN THE GOVERNMENT WOULD SATISFY THE PSD CONSTITUENCY. WITH A UNITED PARTY BEHIND A TOUGH LINE, THE PSD WILL NOT BE MOVED EASILY.
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Message Attributes

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